

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A communication system, comprising:

a plurality of client terminal devices connected to a network and respectively associated with a plurality of identification numbers such that a given one of said plurality of client terminal devices is assigned to a unique one of the plurality of identification numbers; and

a communication server machine connected to the network and operable to manage, for each one of said plurality of client terminal devices, the unique identification number assigned to that client terminal device and user information specific to a user of that client terminal device which indicates at least conditions under which that client terminal device may be connected to the network, the conditions including at least one transmission rate available to that client terminal device and a type of peripheral device associated with that client terminal device, and

in response to a user of a first one of said plurality of client terminal devices requesting communication using a selected communication application with a user of a second one of said plurality of client terminal devices, said communication server machine being further operable (i) to determine whether the selected communication application is suitable for communication between the first client terminal device and the second client terminal device based on first user information specific to the user of the first client terminal device and second user information specific to the user of the second client terminal device, and (ii) if the selected communication application is suitable, to determine whether the type of peripheral device associated with the first client terminal device can

communicate with the type of peripheral device associated with the second client terminal device based on the first user information and the second user information, the type of peripheral device including at least one of a microphone or a camera, and (iii) if the type of peripheral device associated with the first client terminal device can communicate with the type of peripheral device associated with the second client terminal device, to provide a connection for communication between the first client terminal device using its associated peripheral device and the second client terminal device using its associated peripheral device if the selected communication application is suitable.

2. (currently amended) In a communication server machine connected to a network and to a plurality of client terminal devices respectively associated with a plurality of identification numbers such that a given one of the plurality of client terminal devices is assigned to a unique one of the plurality of identification numbers, a communication method, comprising:

managing, for each one of the plurality of client terminal devices, the unique identification number assigned to that client terminal device and user information specific to a user of that client terminal device which indicates at least conditions under which that client terminal device may be connected to the network, the conditions including at least one transmission rate available to that client terminal device and a type of peripheral device associated with that client terminal device; and

in response to a user of a first one of said plurality of client terminal devices requesting communication using a

selected communication application with a user of a second one of said plurality of client terminal devices,

determining whether the selected communication application is suitable for communication between the first client terminal device and the second client terminal device based on first user information specific to the user of the first client terminal device and second user information specific to the user of the second client terminal device,

if the selected communication application is suitable, determining whether the type of peripheral device associated with the first client terminal device can communicate with the type of peripheral device associated with the second client terminal device based on the first user information and the second user information, the type of peripheral device including at least one of a microphone or a camera,
and

if the type of peripheral device associated with the first client terminal device can communicate with the type of peripheral device associated with the second client terminal device, providing a connection for communication between the first client terminal device using its associated peripheral device and the second client terminal device using its associated peripheral device if the selected communication application is suitable.

3. (currently amended) A user terminal device connected over a network to a plurality of client terminal devices, each one of said user terminal device and the plurality of client terminal devices being respectively associated with a plurality of identification numbers such that a given one of said user terminal device and the plurality of client terminal devices is

assigned a unique one of the plurality of identification numbers, said user terminal device comprising:

a list storage unit operable to store a list including, for each one of said user terminal device and the plurality of client terminal devices, the unique identification number assigned to that terminal device, an address of that terminal device, and conditions under which that terminal device may be connected to the network, the conditions including at least one transmission rate available to that terminal device and a type of peripheral device associated with that terminal device;

an application storage unit operable to store a plurality of communication applications; and

a connection controller operable, in response to a user of said user terminal device requesting communication with a user of a particular one of said plurality of client terminal devices, (i) to locate in said application storage unit at least one of the plurality of communication applications that ~~meets~~—is suitable for communication between said user terminal device and the requested terminal device based on the conditions for connecting said user terminal device to the network and the conditions for connecting the ~~particular~~—requested terminal device to the network, and—(ii) to determine whether the type of peripheral device associated with said user terminal device can communicate with the type of peripheral device associated with the requested terminal device, the type of peripheral device including at least one of a microphone or a camera, and (ii) if the at least one suitable communication application is located and the type of peripheral device associated with said user terminal device can communicate with the type of peripheral device associated with the requested terminal device, to provide a

connection for communication between said user terminal device using its associated peripheral device and the particular requested terminal device using its associated peripheral device if the at least one communication application is located.

4. (previously presented) The user terminal device according to claim 3, wherein the list is stored in the list storage unit after being downloaded from a communication server machine connected with the user terminal device through the network.

5. (previously presented) The user device according to claim 3, wherein at least one of the list storage unit and the application storage unit is selected from the group consisting of a hard disk drive and a memory card.

6. (currently amended) In a user terminal device connected over a network to a plurality of client terminal devices, each one of the user terminal device and the plurality of client terminal devices being respectively associated with a plurality of identification numbers such that a given one of the user terminal device and the plurality of client terminal devices is assigned with a unique one of the plurality of identification numbers, a communication method, comprising:

storing a list including, for each one of the user terminal device and the plurality of client terminal devices, the unique identification number assigned to that terminal device, the addresses of that terminal device, and conditions under which that terminal device may be connected to the network, the conditions including at least one transmission rate available to that terminal device and a type of peripheral device associated with that terminal device; and

in response to a user of said user terminal device requesting communication with a user of a particular one of said plurality of client terminal devices,

locating, from a plurality of stored communication applications, at least one of the plurality of communication applications that ~~meets~~ is suitable for communication between said user terminal device and the requested terminal device based on the conditions for connecting the user terminal device to the network and the conditions for connecting the ~~particular~~ requested terminal device to the network,

determining whether the type of peripheral device associated with said user terminal device can communicate with the type of peripheral device associated with the requested terminal device, the type of peripheral device including at least one of a microphone or a camera; and

if the at least one suitable communication application is located and the type of peripheral device associated with said user terminal device can communicate with the type of peripheral device associated with the requested terminal device, providing a connection for communication between the user terminal device using its associated peripheral device and the particular requested terminal device using its associated peripheral device if the at least one communication application is located.

7. (original) The method according to claim 6, wherein the list is downloaded from a communication server machine connected to the network.

8. (original) The method according to claim 6, wherein at least one of the list and the plurality of communication applications is stored in a storage unit selected

from the group consisting of a hard disk drive and a memory card.

9. (currently amended) In a communication server machine connected to a network and to a plurality of client terminal devices respectively associated with a plurality of identification numbers such that a given one of the plurality of client terminal devices is assigned to a unique one of the plurality of identification numbers, a communication method, comprising:

receiving a request from a first user of a given one of the plurality of client terminal devices to start communication with a second user of another one of said plurality of client terminal devices;

searching a database for first user information specific to the first user using the unique identification number assigned to the given client terminal device, the first user information including at least conditions under which the given client terminal device may be connected to the network, the conditions including at least one transmission rate available to the given client terminal device and a type of peripheral device associated with the given client terminal device;

searching the database for second user information specific to the second user using the unique identification number assigned to the second client terminal device, the second user information including at least conditions under which the another client terminal device may be connected to the network, the conditions including at least one transmission rate available to the another client terminal device and a type of peripheral device associated with the another client terminal device;

searching for at least one of a plurality of communication applications that is suitable for both the

given client terminal device and the another client terminal device based on the first user information and the second user information;

if the at least one suitable communication application is located, determining whether the type of peripheral device associated with the given client terminal device can communicate with the type of peripheral device associated with the another client terminal device based on the first user information and the second user information, the type of peripheral device including at least one of a microphone or a camera; and

if the type of peripheral device associated with the given client terminal device can communicate with the type of peripheral device associated with the another client terminal device, providing a connection for communication between the given client terminal device using its associated peripheral device and the another client terminal device using its associated peripheral device.

10. (currently amended) In a user terminal device connected over a network to a plurality of client terminal devices, each one of the user terminal device and the plurality of client terminal devices being respectively associated with a plurality of identification numbers such that a given one of the terminal device and the plurality of client terminal devices is assigned with a unique one of the plurality of identification numbers, a communication method, comprising:

storing a list including, for each one of the user terminal device and the plurality of client terminal devices, the unique identification number assigned to that terminal device, the addresses of that terminal device, and conditions for connecting that terminal device to the network, the conditions including at least one transmission

rate available to that terminal device and a type of peripheral device associated with that terminal device; and receiving a user request to start communication between the user terminal device and a particular one of the plurality of client terminal devices;

selecting from the list, for each one of the user terminal device and the particular client terminal device, the stored unique identification number assigned to that terminal device, the address of that terminal device, and the conditions under which that terminal device may be connected to the network, the conditions including at least one transmission rate available to that terminal device and a type of peripheral device associated with that terminal device;

searching for, from a plurality of stored communication applications, at least one of a—the plurality of communication applications that meets—is suitable for communication between the user terminal device and the particular terminal device based on the conditions for connecting the user terminal device to the network and the conditions for connecting the particular terminal device to the network;

determining whether the type of peripheral device associated with the user terminal device can communicate with the type of peripheral device associated with the particular terminal device, the type of peripheral device including at least one of a microphone or a camera; and

if the at least one suitable communication application is located and the type of peripheral device associated with the user terminal device can communicate with the type of peripheral device associated with the particular terminal device, providing a connection for communication between the user terminal device using its associated

peripheral device and the particular terminal device using its associated peripheral device if the at least suitable communication application is located.

11. (previously presented) The communication method according to claim 10, further comprising downloading the list from a communication server machine connected to the network.

12. (previously presented) The communication method according to claim 10, wherein the list is stored in a list storage unit selected from the group consisting of a hard disk drive and a memory card, and the plurality of communication applications are stored in a communication application storage unit selected from the group consisting of a hard disk drive and a memory card.

13. - 18. (cancelled)

19. (currently amended) A communication system, comprising:

a plurality of client terminal devices connected to a network and respectively associated with a plurality of identification numbers such that a given one of said plurality of client terminal devices is assigned to a unique one of the plurality of identification numbers; and

a communication server machine connected to the network and operable to manage using a database, for each one of said plurality of client terminal devices, the unique identification number assigned to that client terminal device and user information specific to a user of that client terminal device which indicates at least conditions under which that client terminal device may be connected to the network, the conditions including at least one available transmission rate available to that client terminal device and a type of peripheral device associated with that client terminal device,

said communication server machine being further operable (i) to receive a request from a first user of a given one of the plurality of client terminal devices to start communication with a second user of another one of said plurality of client terminal devices, (ii) to search the database for first user information specific to the first user using the unique identification number assigned to the given client terminal device, (iii) to search the database for second user information specific to the second user using the unique identification number assigned to the another client terminal device, (iv) to search for at least one communication application suitable for both the given client terminal device and the another client terminal device based on the first user information and the second user information, and (v) if the at least one suitable communication application is located, to determine whether the type of peripheral device associated with the given client terminal device can communicate with the type of peripheral device associated with the another client terminal device based on the first user information and the second user information, the type of peripheral device including at least one of a microphone or a camera, and (vi) if the type of peripheral device associated with the given client terminal device can communicate with the type of peripheral device associated with the another client terminal device, to provide a connection for communication between the given client terminal device using its associated peripheral device and the another client terminal device using its associated peripheral device if the at least one suitable communication application is located.

20. - 21. (cancelled)

22. (previously presented) The communication system according to claim 1, wherein said communication server machine is operable to provide the connection for communication between the first client terminal device and the second client terminal device if the type of peripheral device associated with the first client terminal device is same as the type of peripheral device associated with the second client terminal device.

23. (previously presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein said providing step includes providing the connection for communication between the first client terminal device and the second client terminal device if the type of peripheral device associated with the first client terminal device is same as the type of peripheral device associated with the second client terminal device.

24. (previously presented) The method according to claim 9, wherein said providing step includes providing the connection for communication between the first client terminal device and the second client terminal device if the type of peripheral device associated with the first client terminal device is same as the type of peripheral device associated with the second client terminal device.

25. (currently amended) A computer-readable recording medium having recorded thereon instructions for carrying out a communication method in a communication server machine connected to a network and to a plurality of client terminal devices respectively associated with a plurality of identification numbers such that a given one of the plurality of client terminal devices is assigned to a unique one of the plurality of identification numbers, said communication method comprising:

managing, for each one of the plurality of client terminal devices, the unique identification number assigned to that client terminal device and user information specific to a user of that client terminal device which

indicates at least conditions under which that client terminal device may be connected to the network, the conditions including at least one transmission rate available to that client terminal device and a type of peripheral device associated with that client terminal device; and

in response to a user of a first one of said plurality of client terminal devices requesting communication using a selected communication application with a user of a second one of said plurality of client terminal devices,

determining whether the selected communication application is suitable for communication between the first client terminal device and the second client terminal device based on first user information specific to the user of the first client terminal device and second user information specific to the user of the second client terminal device,

if the selected communication application is suitable, determining whether the type of peripheral device associated with the first client terminal device can communicate with the type of peripheral device associated with the second client terminal device based on the first user information and the second user information, the type of peripheral device including at least one of a microphone or a camera, and

if the type of peripheral device associated with the first client terminal device can communicate with the type of peripheral device associated with the second client terminal device, providing a connection for communication between the first client terminal device using its associated peripheral device and the second client terminal device using its associated

peripheral device if the selected communication application is suitable.

26. (currently amended) A computer-readable recording medium having recorded thereon instructions for carrying out a communication method in a user terminal device connected over a network to a plurality of client terminal devices, each one of the user terminal device and the plurality of client terminal devices being respectively associated with a plurality of identification numbers such that a given one of the user terminal device and the plurality of client terminal devices is assigned with a unique one of the plurality of identification numbers, said communication method comprising:

storing a list including, for each one of the user terminal device and the plurality of client terminal devices, the unique identification number assigned to that terminal device, the addresses of that terminal device, and conditions under which that terminal device may be connected to the network, the conditions including at least one transmission rate available to that terminal device and a type of peripheral device associated with that terminal device; and

in response to a user of said user terminal device requesting communication with a user of a particular one of said plurality of client terminal devices,

locating, from a plurality of stored communication applications, at least one of the plurality of communication applications that meets is suitable for communication between said user terminal device and the requested terminal device based on the conditions for connecting the user terminal device to the network and the conditions for connecting the particular requested terminal device to the network,

determining whether the type of peripheral device associated with said user terminal device can communicate with the type of peripheral device associated with the requested terminal device, the type of peripheral device including at least one of a microphone or a camera; and

if the at least one suitable communication application is located and the type of peripheral device associated with said user terminal device can communicate with the type of peripheral device associated with the requested terminal device, providing a connection for communication between the user terminal device using its associated peripheral device and the particular requested terminal device using its associated peripheral device if the at least one communication application is located.

27. (currently amended) A computer-readable recording medium having recorded thereon instructions for carrying out a communication method in a communication server machine connected to a network and to a plurality of client terminal devices respectively associated with a plurality of identification numbers such that a given one of the plurality of client terminal devices is assigned to a unique one of the plurality of identification numbers, said communication method comprising:

receiving a request from a first user of a given one of the plurality of client terminal devices to start communication with a second user of another one of said plurality of client terminal devices;

searching a database for first user information specific to the first user using the unique identification number assigned to the given client terminal device, the first user information including at least conditions under which the given client terminal device may be connected to

the network, the conditions including at least one transmission rate available to the given client terminal device and a type of peripheral device associated with the given client terminal device;

searching the database for second user information specific to the second user using the unique identification number assigned to the second client terminal device, the second user information including at least conditions under which the another client terminal device may be connected to the network, the conditions including at least one transmission rate available to the another client terminal device and a type of peripheral device associated with the another client terminal device;

searching for at least one of a plurality of communication applications that is suitable for both the given client terminal device and the another client terminal device based on the first user information and the second user information;

if the at least one suitable communication application is located, determining whether the type of peripheral device associated with the given client terminal device can communicate with the type of peripheral device associated with the another client terminal device based on the first user information and the second user information, the type of peripheral device including at least one of a microphone or a camera; and

if the type of peripheral device associated with the given client terminal device can communicate with the type of peripheral device associated with the another client terminal device, providing a connection for communication between the given client terminal device using its associated peripheral device and the another client terminal device using its associated peripheral device.

28. (currently amended) A computer-readable recording medium having recorded thereon instructions for carrying out a communication method in a user terminal device connected over a network to a plurality of client terminal devices, each one of the user terminal device and the plurality of client terminal devices being respectively associated with a plurality of identification numbers such that a given one of the terminal device and the plurality of client terminal devices is assigned with a unique one of the plurality of identification numbers, said communication method comprising:

storing a list including, for each one of the user terminal device and the plurality of client terminal devices, the unique identification number assigned to that terminal device, the addresses of that terminal device, and conditions for connecting that terminal device to the network, the conditions including at least one transmission rate available to that terminal device and a type of peripheral device associated with that terminal device; and

receiving a user request to start communication between the user terminal device and a particular one of the plurality of client terminal devices;

selecting from the list, for each one of the user terminal device and the particular client terminal device, the stored unique identification number assigned to that terminal device, the address of that terminal device, and the conditions under which that terminal device may be connected to the network, the conditions including at least one transmission rate available to that terminal device and a type of peripheral device associated with that terminal device;

searching for, from a plurality of stored communication applications, at least one of ~~a—the~~ plurality of communication applications that ~~meets—is suitable for~~

communication between the user terminal device and the particular terminal device based on the conditions for connecting the user terminal device to the network and the conditions for connecting the particular terminal device to the network;

determining whether the type of peripheral device associated with the user terminal device can communicate with the type of peripheral device associated with the particular terminal device, the type of peripheral device including at least one of a microphone or a camera; and

if the at least one suitable communication application is located and the type of peripheral device associated with the user terminal device can communicate with the type of peripheral device associated with the particular terminal device, providing a connection for communication between the user terminal device using its associated peripheral device and the particular terminal device using its associated peripheral device if the at least suitable communication application is located.